

# SAN RAMON CITY REPORT



Summer 2008 ♦ Volume Five ♦ Edition Two

## San Ramon Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The City of San Ramon celebrated its 25th anniversary of incorporation on July 1st. Twenty-five years ago, the voters of San Ramon voted to incorporate as a city. Previous to that, local services were provided by a variety of other local government agencies and Contra Costa County. This year, the entire community celebrated with an anniversary party at the City's Star Spangled Spectacular on the 4th of July at Central Park, where thousands of residents enjoyed a "special edition"

*Celebrate  
San Ramon*

fireworks display along with music, food and fun in the park.

The resulting impacts of the hard work and dedication of our "pioneers" of incorporation are most evident today as our beautiful City

has evolved into one of the best places to live and work in America. San Ramon's incorporation as a city has resulted in a strong focus on quality of life issues. From the beautiful landscaping along San Ramon's roadways, to the wonderful parks, our own community-oriented Police Department, two outstanding libraries, the best schools in California, community sporting facilities that are "world class," our City enjoys a quality of life that is the envy of communities across California and beyond.

### SAN RAMON MILESTONES

#### 1983 – 1986

- ♦ City Incorporation Election
- ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> City Council seated
- ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> General Plan adopted

#### 1987 – 1988

- ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> San Ramon Street Faire – to become the Art & Wind Festival
- ♦ Central Park Phase I completed
- ♦ Bishop Ranch annexed into City
- ♦ City begins operations at San Ramon Olympic Pool
- ♦ 1<sup>st</sup> School-Park opens at Twin Creeks

#### 1989 – 1992

- ♦ San Ramon Library opens
- ♦ San Ramon Community Center opens
- ♦ First D.A.R.E. Officer hired
- ♦ Senior Center, Park and Gardens opens
- ♦ Central Park Southwest Phase II completed

#### 1993 – 1997

- ♦ Approval of redevelopment of Alcosta Mall/Kodak site for new shopping center and housing
- ♦ Dougherty Valley Settlement Agreement approved by City and County
- ♦ Iron Horse Trail completed between Danville and Dublin
- ♦ Iron Horse Middle School and Central Park North Phase III completed
- ♦ City Charter approved by voters
- ♦ Ruth Boone donates Forest Home Farms to City

#### 1998 – 2003

- ♦ David Glass House relocated to Forest Home Farms
- ♦ San Ramon Olympic Pool and Aquatic Park expansion completed
- ♦ Community gymnasiums at Iron Horse and Pine Valley schools open
- ♦ Memorial Park dedicated to victims and heroes of September 11<sup>th</sup>

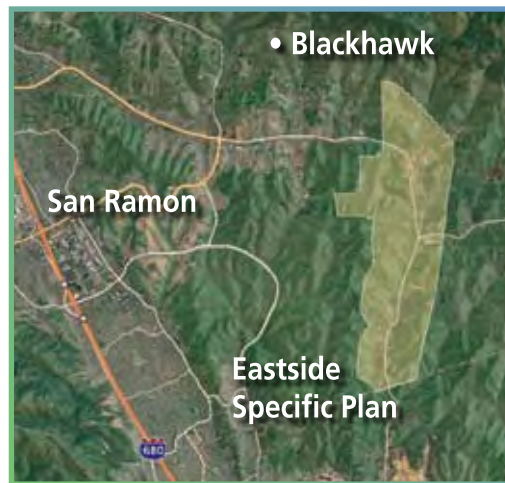
#### 2004 – 2008

- ♦ Dougherty Station Community Center and Library opens
- ♦ San Ramon named One of Best 100 Communities for Youth
- ♦ San Ramon Farmer's Market opens
- ♦ Dougherty Valley Aquatic Center and Performing Arts Center open
- ♦ Five new parks including Sports Park open in San Ramon to total 46 parks

## *Eastside Specific Plan (Tassajara Valley)*

**T**he Eastside Specific Plan (Tassajara Valley) is San Ramon's eastern most planning subarea. This planning area comprises approximately 4,900 acres and is located in an unincorporated part of south central Contra Costa County, east of Dougherty Valley and is outside of the City's Urban Growth Boundary and Sphere of Influence. Currently, much of the land in the planning area is in agricultural use, such as spring pasture and livestock grazing, with a few orchards, small horse ranches, and five-acre ranchettes clustered along Camino Tassajara and other side roads.

Preparation of the Eastside Specific Plan (ESP) is included among the City's Voter Approved 2020 General Plan goals and is intended to provide policy direction and guidance on planning the ESP, while balancing desired land use goals with environmental and economic factors. As the City progresses into the next stage of planning, it is our desire to control what the future land uses will be in this area in order to ensure that the high quality service that the City provides its residents will not diminish. Approval of the ESP is anticipated



to coincide with the voter review of the City's future Urban Growth Boundary in 2010.

In February 2008, the City conducted an Environmental Initial Study to analyze the potential impacts associated with amending the City's Sphere of Influence to include the Eastside Specific Plan Subarea. The primary goal in pursuing the Sphere of Influence Amendment was to affirm the City's jurisdictional interest in planning the area and assuring local control of the process.

The City Council delayed action on the proposed Sphere of Influence

Amendment to a future date. This action was in response to the Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) request that the City delay its Sphere of Influence application until LAFCO completes the City's Municipal Service Review. While it is preferable for the City to establish the Sphere of Influence amendment prior to initiating an extensive and complex planning process, the City is supportive of LAFCO's desire to complete the Municipal Service Review process prior to rendering a decision on the Sphere of Influence amendment application.

In response to the revised schedule and in an effort to keep on schedule with the voter review of the General Plan and the Urban Growth Boundary, the City staff will move forward with the preparation of a consultant Request for Proposal to initiate the Eastside Specific Plan planning process for the Tassajara Valley. If you have any questions about the proposed Eastside Specific Plan planning process, please call Planning Services at (925) 973-2560.

### **San Ramon Senior Center Expansion and Community Garden**

The City of San Ramon is proud to announce the opening of the Senior Center building expansion and community garden. The new portion of the building includes a multi-purpose room, computer lab, 2 classrooms, crafts room, restrooms and lounge and is connected to the existing building by an enclosed breezeway. The parking lot has also been expanded by 54 spaces. The community garden will include over 120 raised planter beds, public viewing area, greenhouse, new garden shed, and seating and gathering areas.

With the expansion of the building, the Center will have approximately 15,000 square feet of programming space. This will allow more senior programming, as well as new multi-generational classes that will serve the entire community. Currently the Senior Center offers a variety of activities for individuals ages 55+ including fitness, trips, cultural arts, card games, computer, health services, lunch, support groups, special events and more.

**Stop by the Senior Center at 9300 Alcosta Blvd to check out all of the activities and the new Community Gardens.**



## San Ramon Police Department Approaches It's Anniversary

The San Ramon Police Department is approaching the anniversary of its inaugural year and remains committed to providing the community with the highest level of professional and effective police services. One of the ways the Police Department strives to connect and keep the community apprised of public information is through its website [www.sanramon.ca.gov/police](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov/police).

Some of the information that can be found on the website includes the new business office hours which have been extended to 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, cost of fees and permits, department directory, and the various services and programs offered by the Department.



One of the online services is OffenderWatch which is a database that the public can access for information on sex offenders residing in San Ramon. This particular program allows citizens to sign up and receive email notification when an offender moves within a one mile radius of any address they choose to register that is within San Ramon. Additional online services offered through the website are Requests for Patrol, Vacation House Check, and Pay your Traffic Ticket.

Each year, the San Ramon Police Department publishes an Annual Report as a reference guide which includes the Department's accomplishments and crime and traffic statistics for the year in review. The *2007 Annual Report* is now available to view and download.



The San Ramon Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit offers a variety of educational crime-fighting programs for residents as well as the business community such as Neighborhood Watch and Crime Free Multi-Housing. We strongly believe that preventing crime is a total community

effort and it is our role, as the Police Department, to provide the training and information necessary to help our citizens take an active part in crime fighting efforts. Crime Statistics are provided and updated monthly on our website.

Last year, the Department implemented a new Records Division as the repository, retrieval and records management center for all official police incident reports and warrants for the city. For more information on the services provided by the Records and other Police Divisions, we encourage you to visit our website and take advantage of the valuable information offered. Should you require additional information that isn't included on the website, please call us at (925) 973-2700 or email us at [police@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:police@sanramon.ca.gov).

## "It Happens" at California High School

This October, the Street Smarts traffic safety education campaign will be launching "It Happens" at California High School. "It Happens" is a web-based program that captures teens, on video, recounting real life stories of those heart pounding "Oh my, Gosh!" near-miss (or not so near-miss) moments as either a driver or passenger in a vehicle. The purpose of the campaign is to provide an engaging venue for dialog on the subject of driving safety.



The campaign will be launched with a "casting call" at California High School in October 2008 for teen automobile-related stories or "confessionals". Approximately 10 stories will be selected for video taping and broadcasting on [www.ithappens2u.com](http://www.ithappens2u.com). Teens throughout the valley will be encouraged to view each webisode, contribute their opinions, and vote for the Best Webisode of the Season.

Teens can earn "It Happens" Rewards points by:

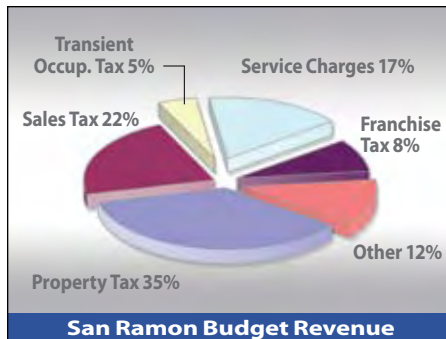
- Submitting stories
- Watching the webisodes
- Taking traffic safety quizzes
- Voting for the best story

The points can be redeemed for prizes including music downloads, gift cards, and more.

The campaign is a method of teaching young adults about traffic safety that is peer-to-peer, and with an approach they can relate to - real, truthful and locally-based.

For additional information about the program, check out [www.ithappens2u.com](http://www.ithappens2u.com). To see last year's campaign, contact Nat Rojanasathira, Street Smarts Program Coordinator at (925) 314-3382 or e-mail him at [streetSMARTS@ci.danville.ca.us](mailto:streetSMARTS@ci.danville.ca.us).

# City of San Ramon Adopts Budget for the 2008–2009 Fiscal Year



**T**he City's \$93.8 million budget was adopted on May 27. The budget provides funding for existing services, programs and facilities as well as costs for maintaining additional infrastructure and services added to the City in the Dougherty Valley area. It includes:

- \$ 56.9 million – Operating Budget
- \$ 13.0 million – Capital Projects & Equipment
- \$ 15.3 million – Redevelopment Agency
- \$ 8.6 million – Internal Services & Debt service

Financing the budget this year was more challenging than in past years as the slow economy has impacted City revenues received from sales and property taxes. To adjust for the impacts, the City took several measures including a hiring freeze for most vacant City positions and setting aside financial reserves to deal with possible State raids on

City revenues. The adopted budget maintains prudent financial reserves that serve the City well and helps to preserve the financial health of the City of San Ramon while providing the flexibility to make up for revenue shortfalls as the rising costs of providing services put a strain on City resources.

*Some of the significant highlights of the adopted budget include:*

- Full funding for all positions in the Police Department's second year of operation after a successful implementation of the Department in July 2007.
- Funding for a 2nd year of operations of the Dougherty Valley Performing Arts Center that provides for eight (8) City-sponsored professional performances
- Funding for \$4.1 million of pavement management projects for continued maintenance of streets in the City.
- Resources to fund the opening of new parks in the Dougherty Valley area.
- Continued funding of prudent reserves to cover future costs of facility maintenance, equipment replacement and other operating liabilities

*Further information about the City budget is available on the City Website, or calling the Administrative Services Department at 973-2500.*

## San Ramon Residents – Get Paid to Commute!

The City of San Ramon and 511 Contra Costa encourages the use of commute alternatives and is committed to providing San Ramon residents with cost-effective and convenient alternatives to driving alone. Here are just a few of the commuter incentives available:

1. Start a new carpool with at least one other person and you could receive a \$60 gift card.
2. Carpool to the BART Station instead of driving alone. You could receive a \$60 gas card plus a \$40 BART pass.
3. Ride transit (bus, train or BART) and receive a \$64 BART pass plus bus, which is approximately a week's worth of a work-related commute.
4. Become a "new" vanpool rider and you are eligible for half your expenses the first three months.
5. Vanpool Driver Bonus Program - Start a new vanpool and keep it on the road for a full year, with a minimum of 6 riders and you're eligible for \$1,000 bonus.
6. For employers in Contra Costa County, employees are offered a *Guaranteed Ride Home* program due to an unplanned emergency or unscheduled overtime.
7. Student are offered (2) 17-ride transit tickets on County connection.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Darlene Amaral, Transportation Analyst at (925) 973-2655 or email at [damaral@sanramon.ca.gov](mailto:damaral@sanramon.ca.gov)

Web: [www.511ContraCosta.org](http://www.511ContraCosta.org)

\*Funding for these programs is provided by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air in cooperation with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and the City of San Ramon.

## GET INVOLVED IN SAN RAMON

**W**ould you like to become more involved city government? The City has openings for volunteers to serve on the Architectural Review Board, Arts Advisory Committee, Housing Advisory Committee, Library Advisory Committee, and the Transportation Advisory Committee. There is also an opening for a San Ramon Representative to the Contra Costa County Library Commission. For full descriptions of these Committee and Commission appointments, meeting dates and times, and the responsibilities of the positions, please visit our website: [www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/bcc/openings.html](http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/bcc/openings.html) Please contact the City Clerk's Department at 925-973-2538 if you have further questions.

## Help Protect Your Local Watershed



A watershed is an area of land that catches and drains water into a creek, stream or river via direct runoff or smaller tributaries and eventually ends up in a large body of water such as the Delta, Bay, or ocean. Every neighborhood in San Ramon is located within a watershed. As stormwater flows over land and across the watershed into the creek, it carries polluted urban runoff such as used motor oil and grease, pesticides, trash and other harmful debris. ***This is where the public can help.*** The more we can prevent polluting the watershed, the healthier our waterways and the habitat it supports, will be.



*Residents can help reduce pollution to our watersheds by:*

- **Not allowing yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves to get into storm drains, which can clog the system and cause irreparable harm.** Although leaves and organic waste are biodegradable, their breakdown process robs valuable oxygen from the water. By composting your grass clippings, yard waste and other biodegradable materials (e.g., banana peels and eggshells), you will return valuable nutrients and moisture to the soil.
- **Properly cleaning and disposing of paint equipment.** All paint equipment needs to be cleaned in a sink that is plumbed to a sanitary sewer. Any sink in your house should do. Also, water based paints can be dried out in the can and put in the garbage. Oil-based paints should be disposed of at a household hazardous waste site. San Ramon residents can use the Household Hazardous Waste Facility located at 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez [www.centalsan.org/aboutcentalsan/directions.html](http://www.centalsan.org/aboutcentalsan/directions.html).
- **Washing cars at a local car wash.** When washing cars, the water runoff enters the storm drains. This puts pollutants such as grease, dirt, oil, metals and soap into our local creeks. Even biodegradable soaps require oxygen to breakdown, depleting our creeks of the oxygen fish and other organisms need to survive. Also, just because the soap breaks down, doesn't mean it breaks down into components that should be in the water. It is best to take your car to a car wash where the water is discharged to the sanitary sewer system.

For more information, please contact Steven Spedowfski, District Analyst at (925) 973-2653 or visit the Contra Costa Clean Water Program website at [www.cccleanwater.org](http://www.cccleanwater.org).

## 436,000-Square-Foot of Office Space Leased in San Ramon

Even in a down economy San Ramon continues to be a great place to do business. Two of San Ramon's office parks, Sunset Business Park and Bishop Ranch, have leased out 436,000 square feet of space in the past three months. PG&E and Robert Half International make up the majority of these leases with a combined total of 370,000 square-feet.

**PG&E** announced in March that it plans to lease 136,000-square-feet at Sunset Business Park to house 550 employees. PG&E is consolidating some operations and closing offices in Pleasant Hill, Danville and San Francisco. PG&E is currently working with the property owner on a "high

tech" interior design. Their training and conference center, San Ramon Valley Conference Center, is located adjacent to the new offices. PG&E estimates they will save between \$3 million and \$5 million dollars a year in operations by moving to San Ramon.

**Robert Half International** will consolidate its East Bay operations in a 235,000 square-foot, five story building at Bishop Ranch 8, relocating from Pleasanton. The professional staffing and consulting company had been looking for a single location that could accommodate their employees currently at numerous locations.

Robert Half is the largest new lease at Bishop Ranch. Other notable deals include UC-Davis signing a long-term lease for 10,000-square feet for their MBA program and Achievo Corp. locating its headquarters in Bishop Ranch. The new UC-Davis campus will include classrooms, meeting rooms and a student commons area for dining and studying. Achievo was already leasing some space at Bishop Ranch but was headquartered in Silicon Valley. Achievo's new space can accommodate twice the number of employees as their current location.





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### Bollinger Canyon Road Widening Update

In order to continue improvement of circulation and traffic within San Ramon, the Bollinger Canyon Road Widening Project from Canyon Lakes Drive to San Ramon Valley Boulevard is currently underway. City staff has worked diligently to complete these projects and minimize disruption and traffic issues.

- **Phase I/II – Completed** - from Canyon Lakes Drive to Alcosta Boulevard included increasing travel lanes from 2 to 3 travel lanes in each direction and a new shared pedestrian/bike pathway.
- **Phase III – Completed** - from Alcosta Boulevard to Market Place

included a fourth westbound travel lane from Alcosta Boulevard that continues to the freeway.

- **Phase IV** – Construction to start summer 2009 - from Market Place to Caltrans Interstate 680 freeway right-of-way.
- **Phase V** – Construction to start Summer 2010 - widening within Caltrans right-of-way (freeway on- and off-ramps at Interstate 680) and extends to San Ramon Valley Boulevard.

City staff worked diligently to complete Phases I, II, III improvements in order to reduce the impact that the Dublin San Ramon Services District

East Bay Municipal Utility District Recycled Water Authority (DERWA) pipeline project will have on traffic circulation during construction. The DERWA pipeline and pump station project will begin the pipeline work on Bollinger Canyon Road, 640 feet east of Chanterella Drive to the Iron Horse Trail in June 2008 and is targeted to complete the majority of the work before the end of August 2008.

*For additional information regarding Bollinger Canyon Road improvements, please contact the Engineering Services Department at (925) 973-2670.*

### San Ramon Residents – Carpool to School Ridematching Program

Getting a list of potential carpool partners is now quicker than ever! The City of San Ramon, in concert with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and 511 Contra Costa, has implemented an on-line carpool to school ridematching program. This on-line program will assist parents in finding nearby neighbors who are interested in carpooling to school. Once you are registered online, you will receive an email with names/email addresses of other parents looking for a carpool, or contact the Transportation Division at (925) 973-2650.

- Log on to the secure website [www.pooltoschool.org](http://www.pooltoschool.org) to register for a carpool.

## Contact Information

### City Council:

H. Abram Wilson, Mayor  
Jim Livingstone, Vice Mayor  
Dave Hudson, Councilmember  
Scott Perkins, Councilmember  
Carol J. Rowley, Councilmember  
  
City Council ..... 973-2530

[www.sanramon.ca.gov](http://www.sanramon.ca.gov)

### Department Services:

Building ..... 973-2580  
Business License ..... 973-2510  
City Clerk ..... 973-2539  
Economic Development ..... 973-2554  
Employee Services ..... 973-2503  
Engineering ..... 973-2670  
Passport Services ..... 973-2533  
Planning ..... 973-2560  
Police ..... 973-2700  
Police Sub Station (Dougherty Station) 973-3300  
Public Services ..... 973-2800  
Transportation ..... 973-2650

### Facilities:

Dougherty Station  
Community Center ..... 973-3350  
Dougherty Station Library ..... 973-3380  
Dougherty Valley High School  
Aquatic Center ..... 973-3335  
Dougherty Valley High School  
Performing Arts Center ..... 973-ARTS  
San Ramon Community Center  
and Central Park ..... 973-3200  
San Ramon Library ..... 973-2850  
San Ramon Olympic Pool ..... 973-3240  
San Ramon Senior Center ..... 973-3250